



The Hal yard

A weekly newsletter for Virginia's Library Media Specialists

September 3, 2004

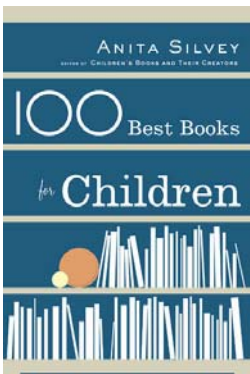
Charlie's chatter

In many of my previous newsletters, I have mentioned the view from my office, of how I overlook the river and historic Churchill. The view this week has been quite different. Gaston arrived in Richmond on Monday just as I was leaving for in-services in northern Virginia. When I returned on Thursday, the landscape had changed. I can see many of the hundreds of cars that were damaged, the collapsed buildings, the piles of mud and trash, and the army of workers who are now faced with the massive clean up. It is hard to fathom the impact of flowing water. Several employees of DOE spent the night here in the offices or were stranded for many hours unable to find ways around the flooded roadways. One of the specialists in my office lost her car to the flooding waters.

I am unaware of any schools that suffered damages but do know that the rerouting of bus routes will be a nightmare for the school transportation departments. Many, many roads and bridges were destroyed and each day adds a new concern about the structural soundness about a new road and or bridge. Talk about adjusting your sails-----

Once again, on September 7 (or in some cases school has already begun), my thoughts will be with each of you as you begin a new year of providing guidance and direction to your students and faculty. Remember to recruit new crewmembers, reenlist last year's crew and have a wonderful voyage to the Bay of Academic Achievement!

A MUST Read



I recently attended an opening day activity in Fairfax County. Anita Silvey, author, publisher, and lover of children's literature was the featured speaker. Many of you may be aware of her newest book, *100 Best Books for Children*. Anita Silvey believes, as she states in the introduction to the book, "that the canon of children's books remains the best gift we can ever give children. These books motivate children to read. They include the best stories, the most compelling characters, and use the most imaginative language. But often for parents finding these ideal books seems a daunting task." *100 Best Books for Children* makes that task easy and focuses on a select group of books that should be part of every child's literary background.



We can not control the wind but we can adjust the sails.



This presentation was the FIRST time she has ever addressed library media specialists and she was very excited about the opportunity. She gave a historical look at children's literature from the turn of the century to 2000. Her stories about each book and the authors were outstanding and all who heard her experienced a trip down childhood memory lane.

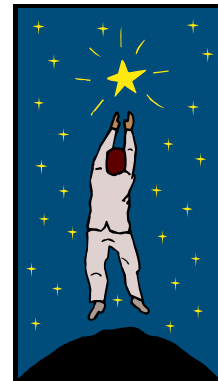
I would like to extend my thanks to Sarah Hopwood, Anne McCracken, and Susan Thorniley for their gracious invitation.

Linking Libraries Docks in Loudoun

Library media specialists in Loudoun County had an opportunity to preview the resources that will be ready for release at the VEMA Conference. They were very impressed and can't wait until it is ready for their use. My thanks are extended to David Jones and his wonderful library media specialists for inviting me to a part of the opening activities.

A New S. T. A. R. is born!

Remember S.T.A.R. ? Several years ago there was a listing of titles that could be used to support the Virginia Standards of Learning. Originally developed by teachers from across Virginia working with Project HOPE-Virginia and coordinated by the College of William and Mary for the Virginia Department of Education, the resource has been revised and expanded by Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). FCPS teachers and librarians worked over the summer to revise and update the list; FCPS software engineers did the technical work to place the information into a searchable database and post the information on the Internet. Now called *Connections*, it has been designed to be user friendly and offers users the opportunity to search by keyword or by subject, can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/cpsapps/connections/index.cfm> . Be sure to check it out!



Data Driven Decision Making

Nancy McGriff and Carl A. Harvey write in the June 2004 issue School Library Media Activities Monthly about collecting the data. And now is the perfect time to start collecting data that demonstrates the connection of the library to the instructional program of the school. "Library Media Specialists, like everyone else in education, are now part of a data-driven work environment. While in the past it was acceptable to just collect circulation and usage statistics, it is imperative now to move past the traditional data and also include evidence of teaching, learning, and the impact the library media center has on students."



We can not control the wind but we can adjust the sails.



Advocacy Tip

(From Pat Muller's presentation at VEMA's Summer Professional Development Day)

Preparing A Good Fact Sheet

A good fact sheet is like a business card; it introduces you and your issue in a format for busy people. Fact sheets:

Tell A Story! - Basic definition of who, what, when and or where?

Just The Facts! - Statistics, hours, circulation policies, special collections, web page URL

Target The Audience! – Grab attention of various groups

SELL, SELL, SELL! – Your willingness and the services you provide



If you work in middle or high school, a creative assignment for orientation would be to have students design a fact sheet for your library. Each grade or subject level could focus on the resources available for their particular needs. A fact sheet about your library should be available in the main office and the guidance office for distribution to visitors and new enrollees.



We can not control the wind but we can adjust the sails.

